

FORT WORTH

QUESTION #1 REFLECT UPON THE PRESENTATIONS THAT YOU PREVIEWED BEFORE THE MEETING. WHAT ARE SOME KEY LEARNINGS OR IMPORTANT TAKE-A-WAYS THAT SHOULD SHAPE OUR CONVERSATION?

Green = Business Leaders Red = Educators Blue = Parents

NUMBER OF VOTES	GROUP'S RESPONSE	RESPONSES TO THIS QUESTION
18	Educators	Finding a balance to testing and be aware of unintended consequences...like a loss of content in one area while concentrating on another.
16	Educators	Moving forward there will be 5 domains. *Question: With the Community/Parent Engagement being locally determined, will it be "stacked?" *Pro: Multi-dimensional. *Con? With it constantly changing, will we ever be able to reach the goal? (before we get there, they change) *Glad to see Community/Parent engagement brought in-encourages partnership.
14	Educators	Assessment should have a purpose. • Assessment types should match a clear, realistic educational goal.
11	Educators	Progression towards growth. • Clear statements needed about expectations, before testing! • Before implementing new accountability system, work out the kinks (think through entire process).
9	Educators	Presentations – Overview of evolution of assessments beginning with TEAMS.
8	Educators	Key learnings – questions have developed to a rigorous level-beyond developmental level of students.
8	Educators	Focus on test too heavy
8	Educators	Meaningful feedback to guide instruction
4	Educators	Student evaluation needs to be dynamic – more measures besides "STAAR"
2	Educators	Eliminate standardized testing scores for educator evaluation
2?	Educators	Effective assessments serve learning, align with goals, measure what matters, should be fair – are these goals being met and how do we ensure these goals moving forward?
1	Educators	Tests should have practical application
10	Parents	Failure to address the needs of a diverse population
7	Parents	Discovery, open-ended

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4	Parents	Test balance is off – need to re-evaluate
2	Parents	More “interim”
2	Parents	Allow teachers to reteach as needed per student.
	Parents	Need access to the information
	Parents	Current accountability system - How one test shows all measures
	Parents	Rubrics
	Parents	Teachers that are dedicated to profession
	Parents	Multiple measures
	Parents	More of “formative” everybody learning
	Parents	There is too much focus on “summative” test
	Parents	Teach the material they need to learn at their level vs. just teaching test
	Parents	Length of time of the test – more age appropriate. The test is too long.
	Parents	Non/AP we are not sent
	Parents	All teachers, admin, parents all of same page together

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QUESTION #2 WHAT IS THE ROLE/PURPOSE OF ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE EDUCATION OF OUR CHILDREN?

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NUMBER OF VOTES	GROUP'S RESPONSE	RESPONSES TO THIS QUESTION
	Business	Should be used as a tool/resource to help identify areas of support
	Business	Focuses on specific needs of all children
	Business	Diagnostic – not high stakes
	Business	Authentic assessments – broad range
	Business	Sampling for assessments – to determine processes & functions – sampling for TEKS – diagnostics for all Inform instruction, not rate schools
22	Educators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve schools • Evaluation of programs
20	Educators	To measure EACH student’s individual progress from their starting point.
17	Educators	The role is to improve instruction, to encourage students to demonstrate their knowledge and skills.
8	Educators	Fair assessment for students w/special needs and sub-pops.
7	Educators	Should focus on learning
6	Educators	Assessment-Norming
5	Educators	Assessment drives instruction – learning journey/process vs. a point in time
5	Educators	Drill down to individual student progress as well as examining systemic progress.
5	Educators	Set up student for success.
4	Educators	Measure student growth and progress monitoring.
2	Educators	Identify strengths and weaknesses
1	Educators	Provide Equity: All students are growing & have equal access/education
1	Educators	Observation: Assessment should not be end of itself.
1	Educators	Are we doing what we’re charged to do?
	Educators	Accountability to ensure effective educators, not tied solely to Standardized Testing
	Educators	Accountability-Ensure students are prepared for post- secondary education
	Educators	Across the board accountability at all levels
	Educators	Assessment-Assess gaps in learning

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	Educators	Assessment-Provide educators an opportunity to make adjustments
	Educators	Assessment Purpose-determining student understanding and learning/informing instruction
	Educators	Assessment Role- district/teacher accountability, determine campus improvement
	Educators	To show authentic learning and mastery.
	Educators	Examine progress vs cut score pass/fail progress
21	Parents	Advocate for special education learning challenges
14	Parents	Stop the school-to-prison pipeline
		Current Role – causes medical issues in students to include ulcers, mental breakdown, poor self-esteem, panic attacks (student view)
12	Parents	
8	Parents	To prepare our children for further education or employment workforce
		Basic skills test is something we have gotten away from. This should gauge where they are academically to where they need more study.
8	Parents	
3	Parents	Teachers teach to test only – when test over, school must be over
3	Parents	Raises & bonuses or promotions based on students' scores instead of teachers' ability
1	Parents	Identify mastery of materials (there is no accountability)
1	Parents	Currently, it is the driving force of education.
	Parents	Purpose – to judge teachers on their ability to teach test taking skills
	Parents	To make sure you (student) has learned what is necessary
	Parents	Norm referenced results
	Parents	Use assessment as enrichment

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QUESTION #3 WHAT IS WORKING WELL WITH OUR CURRENT SYSTEM OF ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY?

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NUMBER OF VOTES	GROUP'S RESPONSE	RESPONSES TO THIS QUESTION
	Business	Currently measures all
	Business	Helps target resources
4?	Educators	Teachers understand the material, we can identify areas of improvement/trends, meet federal guidelines, focus district resources and increase parent awareness.
4	Educators	There is an increased interest in career and college readiness.
4	Educators	Later dates for testing
3	Educators	Standardized Tests - State standards need to be taught – but not assessed in same way (in classroom).
2	Educators	Data-rich (but information poor).
2	Educators	ID Achievement Gaps - Subgroups; Accountability; Instruction & Support
1	Educators	One index is based on student progress.
1	Educators	Test Management
1	Educators	Logistical Systems
1	Educators	Assessment-Relevant for times; Reflects TEKS; Teachers-meeting moving target
1	Educators	Index 2 - growth
1	Educators	Cut back on the number of tests
	Educators	Hard to identify.
	Educators	# of EOC's were decreased.
	Educators	Tests are released to examine and analyze.
	Educators	STAAR is better aligned to AP tests than (re: critical thinking skills)
	Educators	Allowed Modifications
	Educators	Teacher awareness of sub-populations has increased tremendously.
	Educators	Includes multiple measures
	Educators	Inclusive of all children
16	Parents	Nothing is working well. We feel that the manner of assessment for students are exceedingly lacking.
8	Parents	Nothing
4	Parents	Not penalizing students for not using presented strategies.

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3	Parents	It has driven parental interest in ways to improve their children's education and accountability metrics. They should not be changing the requirement if it was working well. If there is something good could you explain.
2	Parents	
1	Parents	That there is a system in place to identify gaps
1	Parents	Not have pep rallies to put extra stress on test.
1	Parents	Scantron skills

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QUESTION #4 WHAT FACTORS SHOULD THE NEXT GENERATION COMMISSION ON ASSESSMENTS AND ACCOUNTABILITY CONSIDER AS THEY MAKE THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS?

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NUMBER OF VOTES	GROUP'S RESPONSE	RESPONSES TO THIS QUESTION
	Business	Assessments need to be more than one shot
	Business	More than one assessment
	Business	Randomized testing for uniformity across states for process & functionality
	Business	Diagnostic for each kid
	Business	Remove vendor influence
	Business	Goal 2 – Provide the necessary resources, \$ to...
	Business	Goal 3 - Far trend – (not single)
18	Educators	Teacher’s classroom is more than just circling bubbles – there is creativity, inquiry, etc. Every test right now is a reading test so it’s not clear as to whether those not meeting standard are due to reading problems or lack of content knowledge.
16	Educators	Remove school rating-Eliminate competitions between schools
11	Educators	Assessment based on less testing (i.e. portfolios, projects, etc.)
8	Educators	Assess Whole Child
8	Educators	We need to think about the emotional strain on everyone and how do we make the assessments developmentally appropriate.
5	Educators	Assessment-More flexibility for individual student needs
5	Educators	Assessments should measure individual growth.
4	Educators	Assessment-Focus on equity for sub population
4	Educators	Tests are too fluid – moving target - • Not able to show growth when test is different each year
4	Educators	Teacher & student accountability needs support from legislature, SBOE, School Board, etc.
4	Educators	Student population today is very different so we cannot use previous tests to prepare tests of tomorrow.
3	Educators	State recognition for school programs & success beyond core content – i.e.: engineering , fine arts

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NUMBER OF VOTES	GROUP'S RESPONSE	RESPONSES TO THIS QUESTION
3	Educators	Consistency in growth scale by grade - Practical vertical scale; RIT scale; Adaptive for finding instructional level
3	Educators	Are we trying to measure content knowledge or ability to take test?
2	Educators	Curriculum/assessments alignment to post-secondary standards-SAT, ACT, Critical Thinking
2	Educators	Make assessments varied; assessments not as weighted.
1	Educators	Don't "tweak" a broken system – reinvent system
1	Educators	Eliminate moving target - make assessments that are progressive from grade to grade
1	Educators	Identify high priority standards - depth of instruction; understandable for educators/parents
1	Educators	There no more additional minutes in a day.
1	Educators	Consider students with special needs.
1	Educators	How poverty impacts language (vocabulary) and learning.
	Educators	Emotional welfare of testing for students & teachers
	Educators	Reduce teaching to the test
	Educators	Keep the core content even in non-tested years
	Educators	Assessments are not used to evaluate teachers
	Educators	Restrict District/Campus Benchmark Testing
15	Parents	Take individual learning style into account for each child. They all learn differently.
5	Parents	Money being spent on testing vs. education
5	Parents	Teacher workload having to accommodate the STAAR test
5	Parents	Culture, needs, language
4	Parents	Students w/learning disabilities
		Test should be smaller segments spaced throughout year-Based on what is taught during the session & be grade
4	Parents	level appropriate (6 week test) (secondary semester tests).
3	Parents	All teachers assessments should not be based solely based on students test scores.
3	Parents	Technology needs to update.
3	Parents	Think out of the box, commission be fully involved

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NUMBER OF VOTES	GROUP'S RESPONSE	RESPONSES TO THIS QUESTION
2	Parents	Impact to SAT & ACT scores of Texas students
2	Parents	Maintain growth measure
2	Parents	Close attention for SWD, ELL
2	Parents	Multiple high stakes tests at the same time
2	Parents	Watch the kids take the test. "Accountability"
1	Parents	Statistical sampling
1	Parents	Reduce the frequency of the benchmarks put into place.
1	Parents	State goals - Need to be looked at. Are they attainable? Are they inflated?
1	Parents	Hold parents accountable for their children.
	Parents	Focus on functional & relevant curriculum.

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QUESTION #5 WHAT SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF OUR CURRENT SYSTEM WOULD YOU GIVE TO THE COMMISSION?

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NUMBER OF VOTES	GROUP'S RESPONSE	RESPONSES TO THIS QUESTION
	Business	Remove A-F system
	Business	C in Aledo compared to C in Rio Grande Valley?
	Business	Moving the bar too much & too often
	Business	Changing performance indicators creates inconsistency
	Business	Inappropriate or skewed
	Business	How does this tell us how kids are prepared for business or college-post secondary readiness?
15	Educators	Consider cognitive abilities of students when creating tests.
11	Educators	Start Over
10	Educators	Create realistic passing standards & tests that reflect them.
8	Educators	What is the purpose of state assessments?
6	Educators	Return to local control
4	Educators	Alternatives to pen and paper test
4	Educators	Include multiple (meaningful) measures for student growth, i.e.: writing portfolio, hands-on experience and exposure
3	Educators	Consider a value added grading system
3	Educators	Is there a need to test all or would random work to show what districts are doing well
3	Educators	Possible smaller "unit test" rather than yearly killer test!
2	Educators	Consider testing growth and measure growth.
2	Educators	Fewer Tests
2	Educators	Testing Later
2	Educators	Realign TEKS to appropriate
1	Educators	Consider that all administrators are not academic leaders
1	Educators	Not enough time/days to teach required/tested curriculum
1	Educators	Consider testing only federal requirements to reduce amount of testing
1	Educators	Review National vs. State Standards

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NUMBER OF VOTES	GROUP'S RESPONSE	RESPONSES TO THIS QUESTION
1	Educators	Native language options at high school level
1	Educators	Portfolio
1	Educators	Let current educator from all types of districts have a seat at the table - Title I, high income, etc.
1	Educators	Age/brain level
	Educators	Bring back teacher panels.
	Educators	Also the test needs to be shortened for elementary schools.
	Educators	Reconsider A-F system.
	Educators	How does state assessment support the goal of education?
	Educators	Data Turnaround Time
	Educators	Better way to assess progress
	Educators	Supports and resources - keep up with the changes in accountability and standards
	Educators	Elimination of comparison groups
11	Parents	More power to parents to opt out their children from the STAAR test
11	Parents	Eliminate trick questions.
8	Parents	Why are we testing every year 3-8. They should do shorter term testing (mini test).
8	Parents	Stop holding teachers responsible for students' STAAR test scores
7	Parents	Have a board that represents that it serves
		Stop forcing elementary kids to think of college or career. Let them be kids - Novel idea. Recess for physical activity
6	Parents	Focus on the majority of your students what their needs are & disperse money according to their individual needs, i.e. technology, sports, after school programs –
5	Parents	Opt out form
5	Parents	Scrap it - Realignment to previous teaching methods so students are taught life-long skills and the kids will be able to research and devise answers.
4	Parents	How to give authority to local districts
4	Parents	Divide up the subjects and the timeframe of testing. Data overload.
2	Parents	Too much data
2	Parents	Establish a state-level board of parents of Texas students

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2	Parents	Eliminate elementary & junior high/intermediate testing through STAARS.
1	Parents	Quality community meetings with everyone accountable
1	Parents	Having them tested on the exam & school district
1	Parents	Not an "A-F" label
1	Parents	Not as many tests
1	Parents	Portfolio system
	Parents	Developmentally appropriate

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QUESTION #6 WHAT GOALS FOR (1) ASSESSMENTS AND (2) ACCOUNTABILITY WOULD YOU RECOMMEND TO THE COMMISSION THAT WOULD SHAPE THEIR WORK?

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	Business	Goal 2 – Provide the necessary resources, \$ to...
	Business	Goal 3 - Far trend – (not single)
17	Educators	Do not link assessment results to pay/teacher evaluations Meaningful feedback to guide instruction for educators/parents/students-Assess the process of learning over time; Individually adaptive
13	Educators	
12	Educators	Community based accountability - understandable by the general public and clear expectations
10	Educators	Goals – assessments – address a variety of modalities
9	Educators	Recognize the diversity of the state’s population-One size fits all does NOT work.
7	Educators	Ensure that it is developmentally appropriate, equitable, culturally responsive, and fair.
6	Educators	Make accountability part of a comprehensive system.
6	Educators	Bring back the joy in learning
5	Educators	Test less, teach more!
3	Educators	STAAR A on computer-reconsider this!
2	Educators	Focus on student (human being) rather than data.
2	Educators	Have each member go sit in a Title I classroom on test days (and sit through security training required of all Even though Domain II is Student Progress, if test changes from grade level-to-grade level and year to year, it’s not true picture of improvement.
2	Educators	Do not add more tests to prove accountability.
2	Educators	Community Conversation (need consistent) - mandate changes 2 years out
2	Educators	Goal – Accountability - weigh other factors (in addition to) than state tests

QUESTION #6 WHAT GOALS FOR (1) ASSESSMENTS AND (2) ACCOUNTABILITY WOULD YOU RECOMMEND TO THE COMMISSION THAT WOULD SHAPE THEIR WORK?

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NUMBER OF VOTES	GROUP'S RESPONSE	RESPONSES TO THIS QUESTION
1	Educators	If test is going to remain the same, go back to allowing dyslexic students to take reading test over course of 2 days.
1	Educators	If students are receiving modified instruction, then the assessment should reflect this and have modifications.
1	Educators	Allow more variety/broader spectrum of level of difficulty of questions. (Not all hard)
1	Educators	Don't allow test score define the student (or teacher).
1	Educators	Focus on moving each individual student forward rather than closing a gap.
1	Educators	Inform schools, but not constrict the learning process
1	Educators	Consider how much time/\$ is expended and their results - is it worth it?
	Educators	Options, flexibility and individualized
	Educators	Practicing classroom educator included in creating (not just a token presence)
	Educators	Achieve balanced testing (Balanced Assessment)
	Educators	Include multiple measures
	Educators	Inclusive of locally defined priorities
	Educators	Inclusive of all children takes into account the "level" that each child is at
	Educators	Allow for innovation/creativity
	Educators	Allow for students to highlight their strengths
	Educators	Remember, all students are not created equally
33	Parents	Get rid of standardized testing
27	Parents	Flexibility to the teachers to teach to content matter vs. teaching the test
13	Parents	Fair equitable system
13	Parents	Provide more resources and options to accommodate ESL, dyslexia, special needs students
11	Parents	Give them back their creativity
11	Parents	Reduce assessments to free up resources (money, time, staff) for teaching
7	Parents	Assessments are fine but must teach education content not only test taking skills.
4	Parents	Reduces anxiety of student, teachers & parents & administrators – goals
3	Parents	Less jargon
3	Parents	Align with current curriculum

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2	Parents	Accountability to teaching material – teachers adequately teach material and students assessments will show.
1	Parents	Take into account age of group.